

# Sex Offenders Admit Seeing Missing Girl

By a Times Correspondent

SANTA BARBARA—Two brothers charged with failing to register as sex offenders saw 7-year-old Ramona Price the day she disappeared on a rustic lane on Santa Barbara's outskirts, one of the men admitted Monday.

Raymond E. Panno, 55, facing Municipal Judge Frank P. Kearney on the misdemeanor charge, said he and his brother, William L. Panno, 44, saw Ramona about noon on Modoc Rd. while parked in their car.

Raymond Panno also admitted talking to the little girl but denied that either he or his brother approached or touched her. He said they had stopped on the road to get a drink from a wine jug in the back of the car.

Residents had told police of seeing an old car similar to theirs on the road at about the point where the girl's footprints ended. Ramona disappeared on Saturday, Sept. 2, when she set out from her home to walk to the new home of the Price family.

The Panno brothers, residents of a trailer park outside Santa Barbara, were arrested last Thursday and had been under questioning and lie detector examination about the missing girl.

Raymond Panno told Judge Kearney he saw the little girl walking along the road and called out to her:

"Where do you think you're going?"

He said the girl "didn't look at me but said, 'I've got to go some place.'"

Panno said he got out of the car, went around to the trunk and got the jug. His brother didn't leave the car.

Judge Kearney remanded the 6-ft., balding Raymond Panno to the sheriff for pre-sentence investigation. Panno was ordered to appear back in court Oct. 2.

Police said both men have sex records but had failed to register in accordance with state law.